Cases of chicken pox in the capital

3874. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the spurt of Chicken pox in the capital if so, the details of cases so far detected; and

(b) the steps being taken to check the disease which was eliminated from Indian soil long ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) 693 cases of Chicken Pox have been reported in Delhi from 1st January, 1995 to 18th April, 1995.

(b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has taken the following steps:

(i) Health Education to the affected persons and the family contacts;

(ii) Early diagnosis of cases and prevention of complications.

Victims of fluorosis

3875. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Report published in the Indian Express of November 9, 1994 under the caption, "25 million victims of fluorosis";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) which are the endamic States of fluorosis and whether any survey has been conducted in these States;

(d) if so, what are the details of this survey, State-wise indicating the number of persons suffering from this disease and since when;

(e) what are the reasons for the spread of this cripling disease;

(f) what preventive and curative steps Government have taken or propose to take to combat this epidemic effectively State-wise; and

(g) what are the details of the schemes introduced or to be introduced in each State for providing potable drinking water to the people living in rural areas where this disease has since been spreading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. 150 Districts in 15 States are known to be affected with excess fluoride in ground water. Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are conducting a survey to assess the number of habitations where ground water is affected with excess fluoride. No Health survey has been undertaken to assess the number of persons affected with fluorosis.

(e) High content of fluoride in water & food is main cause for the disease.

(f) To a limited extent, Orthopaedic procedures are being used to cure the bone deformities. Among the preventive measures are provision for safe drinking water and health education against use of contaminated water.

(g) Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission has undertaken to provide Safe Drinking Water.

Shortcomings in AIDS programme

3876. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount founded by the World Bank for the AIDS preven-